

Nevada State Veterans Home  
100 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, Nevada 89005  
(702) 332-6784 • Fax (702) 332-6762

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor



Department of Veterans Services  
6900 N. Pecos Road, Room  
1C237  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89086  
(702) 224-6025 • Fax (702) 224-6927

Northern Nevada  
Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
P.O. Box 1919  
Fernley, Nevada 89408  
(775) 575-4441 • Fax (775) 575-5713

STATE OF NEVADA  
**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS SERVICES**  
5460 Reno Corporate Drive, Suite 131  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
(775) 688-1653 • Fax (775) 688-1656

Southern Nevada  
Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
1900 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, Nevada 89005  
(702) 486-5920 • Fax (702) 486-5923

## Minutes

Name of Organization: **Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC)**

Date and Time of Meeting: **July 23, 2014 (9am-3pm) 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Meeting Location: **VBA Conference Room**

*Members of the public were able to participate in person at the Veterans Benefits Administration Building, 5460 Reno Corporate Dr. Reno, NV 89511*

### **\*Call to Order**

CALL TO ORDER: Kat Miller calls meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL: Yvonne Betron calls roll for official members.

**Members present include:** Anne Davis, Roberta Pike-Oates, Anthoneal Newman, Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Sharlee Smith

Non-council members present during Roll Call include: Yvonne Betron, Kat Miller, Willette Gerald, Caleb Cage, Carol Simenson, Lucia Garces.

Members of the public in attendance: Troy Wouters, Tracy Soliday, Laretta Nawojski, Luanna Rich

**Motion to approve agenda:** Kat Miller proposed an addition to the agenda to elect a chairperson for the committee. Roberta Pike-Oates moved to approve agenda with changes, Anne Davis seconded. Agenda was approved with changes by unanimous decision.

**Motion to approve previous minutes:** Not required as this is the first meeting of the WVAC.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Troy Wouters, Tracy Soliday, and Laretta Nawojski

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introduced themselves. Tracy asked that her contact information be included in the minutes for reference to committee members.

**Tracy A. Soliday**

**Constituent Service Representative**

**5310 Kietzke Lane, Suite 103**

**Reno, NV. 89511**

**TEL: 775-686-5760**

**CELL: 775-420-0782**

**FAX: 775-686-5711**

**[Tracy.Soliday@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tracy.Soliday@mail.house.gov)**

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Committee Members introduced themselves
- Open Meeting Law Requirements were reviewed with the committee. It was stressed that members of the public are welcome, all meetings are recorded. If meeting/emailing outside of formal meetings care must be taken, if there is a quorum of committee members (3 or more), that there are no decisions being made on issues or suggestions.
- Discussion was held regarding clarification for the final submission of application paperwork.
- Caleb Cage gave an overview of the three focus areas that have been identified as important for veterans: wellness, employment and education. He then gave a brief overview of the current advisory committees and councils that are established or in the works to support these focus areas. He identified the three pillars that the committee will want to focus on in their report to the governor. The first pillar is policy development, the second is service coordination and the third is outreach to veterans. He then reviewed the Woman Veteran Advisory Committee Executive Order with the committee. He also advised the committee with regards to the purpose and importance of the final report to the Governor. He suggested the committee submit an interim report to the Governor's office by September 15, 2014 for any items that the committee would like considered for Legislative action during the upcoming Legislative Session.
- The committee elected Anne Davis as Chair of the committee and Anthoneal Newman as Vice Chair of the committee.
- VA Women Veteran Program Managers Carol Simenson and Lucia Garces gave overviews of the current programs available through the VA Women's Health Centers. Carol Simenson handed out literature to committee on Southern Nevada Women's Health Programs. Committee members were advised that the Women Veteran Program Manager from

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Salt Lake City included information on their Women's Health Center and events in her absence.

- Discussion was held regarding several items: 1) The ease of rural veterans in getting VA ID cards. This item could be added to questions asked at outreach events to determine need for action. 2) The policy regarding pregnant female veterans choosing or being assigned their Obstetrician during their pregnancy. Policy will be requested from the VA Women Veteran Program Managers for review by the committee. 3) VISN designations and difficulty having to be included with other states. 4) Education regarding the use of VA facilities outside of your registered VISN. Could be good information to get out to veterans.
- The motion was made to include the VA Women Veteran Program Managers on the committee as advisors. Sharlee Smith approved the motion and it was seconded by Lesli Wouters. Motion was approved by unanimous decision.
- Kat Miller gave a brief overview of the history of the Women Veterans Program within NDVS and let committee members know that there was an overview of NDVS for them to review at their leisure. Yvonne Betron, NDVS Women Veterans Program Coordinator, presented the current mission and vision of the Women Veterans Program and current outreach initiatives. Yvonne also presented the results of the Women Veterans Survey that was sent out the first week of July.
- The addition of a full time Women Veteran Coordinator for the state was discussed by the members of the committee. The motion was made that a request for a full time Women Veterans Coordinator position be included in the interim report to the Governor. Motion was approved by Lesli Wouters and seconded by Anthoneal Newman. Item was approved by unanimous decision.
- Chair Anne Davis adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm for one hour for lunch.
- Meeting was reconvened at 1:00pm by Chair Anne Davis
- Kat Miller gave a brief overview of ways the Green Zone Network could be used to benefit the committee in gathering information.
- Discussion was held regarding the logistics of putting together the list of recommendations for the interim report to the Governor. Suggestions and ideas for the report are to be sent to the Women Veterans Program Coordinator by August 8, 2014.
- Committee members are provided the link [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov) to view the reports submitted by the other Committees prior to the next meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting is set for August 13, 2014 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Questions asked about honoring women veterans on Veterans Day.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Davis made a motion to adjourn, Charley Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.